

PROBE OF AVIATION SERVICE BEGUN BY WAR DEPARTMENT

General Scott's Answer to Senator Robinson's Demand for Inquiry by Congress.

HEAD OF SERVICE ASSAILED

Colonel Reber Alleged to Have Prompted Officer to Practice "Contemptible Deceit."

The War Department is making an exhaustive investigation of the entire administration of the army aviation service, it was announced today.

This was the War Department's reply to the demand made in the Senate yesterday by Senator Robinson of Arkansas for an immediate investigation by Congress of the aero branch of the service.

Major Gen. Hugh L. Scott, adjutant general of the War Department, said that a board of general officers of the War Department has been appointed to investigate the aero service, which was characterized by Senator Robinson as "contemptibly inefficient."

Aero Scandal Aired.

The aero scandal was aired at the recent court-martial trial at San Francisco of Lieut. Col. Lewis E. Goodier, judge advocate.

The Goodier court-martial verdict is now before the War Department and the President for approval, but it was indicated today that final action would not be taken in the case until all the charges made in testimony taken at that trial are investigated.

"We are not going to find out if there is anything wrong with the aviation service," General Scott said, "and remedy conditions if it is shown to be necessary."

General Scott would not say whether further court-martial proceedings might develop from this investigation. He will await the report of the investigating board before taking action.

Correspondence between Lieut. Col. Goodier and Capt. Arthur E. Cowan, commanding the aviation station at San Diego, was produced at the Goodier trial, and in that trial it was stated that the work of the aviation school at San Diego.

Practice of Deceit Alleged.

These letters, Senator Robinson charged, show that Colonel Reber prompted Captain Cowan to practice "contemptible deceit toward Congressmen." Other letters are said to make reference to the "rotten way" in which the work of the aviation school has been handled.

The Goodier case, which stirred up the present investigation, was brought about through criticism of the aviation service by Colonel Goodier. He was court-martialed for attempting to interfere with the work of the aviation school at San Diego.

Out of the charges and counter-charges brought out at the San Francisco trial, a summary of military affairs on the coast resulted.

Searching Inquiry Favored.

Demanding an investigation of the service and declaring it "contemptibly inefficient," Senator Robinson has asserted that the head of the service, Colonel Reber, is making no effort to improve it and is preventing facts from reaching his superiors.

The Senate Military Affairs Committee, according to the opinion expressed in Senate circles today, is likely to order an investigation. It will take up the Robinson charge Monday.

The possibility of sending a subcommittee to San Diego, where the aviation school is located, is suggested.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Military Committee, favors a searching inquiry.

Senator Robinson laid before the committee copies of data including photographic copies of letters which, he stated, had been exchanged between Captain Cowan and Colonel Reber.

Findings of the court-martial in the Goodier case are in the hands of a special commission or army officer named to consider what action should be taken as the result of the revelations regarding the aviation service.

Favoritism Alleged.

To the committee, Senator Robinson read excerpts from the copies of the letters and other data which he was writing to Colonel Reber that if the service was ever investigated by anyone outside the Signal Corps it would be impossible to explain "the rotten way in which the work has been handled." Letters were produced to show favoritism in promotions.

Senator Robinson made serious charges against Colonel Reber, alleging that he tried to get Congress to buy automobiles as "accessories" to airplanes, saying the word "accessories" like charity, would "cover a multitude of sins" and that he directed Captain Cowan to have prepared designs for airplanes to be placed under the seats of aviators "so we can say we have armored aeroplanes."

Colonel Reber is stationed in the War Department in this city, is a leading Signal Corps officer, and has charge of the aviation service.

Denies Financing Yucatan Revolution

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Under signature of President Cyrus H. McCormick, the International Harvester Company today denied a denial of Washington reports that it had financed the Yucatan revolution.

Every Day—the Right Way

Augusta Special, 10. Washington, 7.30. m. for Columbia, Alaska, Augusta, Southern Railway, 10.15-11.15 G. Sta. N. W. Adv.

Greatest Playground Of Nation is Planned For Potomac Park

Col. Harts Sends to Congress Scheme to Convert Eastern Area Into Recreation Spot for Country, With Great Stadium and Athletic Fields.

Plans to convert Potomac Park into one of the most extensive municipal recreation reservations in the world are contained in the annual report of Col. W. W. Harts, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, made public today.

The estimates cost is \$1,000,000, the expenditure to cover a term of years with \$100,000 to start the work.

When completed, would accommodate 200,000 persons, and be so arranged that temporary stands could be erected at the open end of the "U" to increase the capacity to upwards of 500,000.

While the report points out that this stadium would be the proper place on which to stage athletic events of national importance, it also would be available for such pageants, municipal and national, that would attract great concourses of visitors to the city.

Accompanying the report to Congress today were letters from Major Gen. Hugh L. Scott, adjutant general of the War Department, and Brig. Gen. Dan C. Kingman, chief of army engineers, approving the park improvement plan.

As an argument in favor of the improvement, Colonel Harts says this tract of ground, comprising 27 acres,

was acquired by the Government without cost. The entire peninsula was built up from malarial flats, because it was a convenient place of deposit for material dredged from the river in deepening the channels.

He places the entire value of the reclaimed tract at \$7,000,000.

The plan of improvement contemplates the erection of a stadium, with a seating capacity of 10,000, at a cost of \$100,000; two swimming pools, a wading pool, and two bath houses, to cost \$150,000; a field house to cost \$200,000, and a canal and boat house to cost \$50,000.

There is provision for fifteen baseball fields, two football fields, an eighteen-hole golf course, twenty-nine tennis courts, four basketball courts, ten croquet courts, and three route courts.

A cross-park canal for canoeing and boating, with bathhouses.

Arrangements have been made for ferry-boat service from the Seventh street wharves if the plan is adopted.

In introductory remarks before submitting his plan Colonel Harts makes a strong argument that Congress should pass the legislation necessary to improve this park.

Colonel Harts points out that salt water bathing is not within easy reach of Washingtonians and the distances of Washingtonians and the distances

(Continued on Second Page.)

WARSHIPS AID RUSS TO WAGE ARMENIA BLACK SEA COAST SHELLED.

Great Force Landed Seventy Miles East of Trebizond.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Under cover of warships' guns, Russian transports have landed large forces of men on the Armenian coast, seventy miles east of Trebizond, encountering only feeble resistance.

While the troops landed by being made Russian torpedo boats ruled the Black Sea coast, bombarding and sinking Turkish sailing ships near Trebizond. News agency dispatches today reported that in their pursuit of the Turks fleeing from Erzerum the Russians have occupied several minor positions.

Petroleum dispatches today indicate that these forces will march westward, joining the troops now advancing on Trebizond from the direction of Erzerum. The Turks are not expected to make a serious stand at Trebizond, the city being poorly fortified.

The troops were transported from Batum, where they have been held in readiness for several months. The fact that they were not used in the earlier stages of the Armenian campaign leads to the belief that the grand duke has under his command much larger forces than was at first suspected, and plans to push an aggressive campaign through Armenia, driving westward toward Constantinople.

If he decides upon the latter course he is expected to push forward at once toward Diarbekir, 16 miles southwest of Erzerum.

Definite statistics as to the number of men and guns taken in the rout of the Turks at Erzerum are still lacking. It is now believed that the number of troops captured in the fighting inside the fortress and in the immediate vicinity would not exceed 50,000, though there are excellent prospects that large bodies will be cut off by the Russians if the retreat becomes more confused.

The Turks abandoned all their heavy artillery, after unsuccessful attempts to destroy some of the larger pieces.

Asks U. S. Warship To Transport Milk

Dr. Edward von Mach Makes Appeal to Navy Department for Germans.

Dr. Edmund von Mach, executive chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Food Shipments, today asked the Navy Department to send a cargo of milk for the starving German babies on a United States naval vessel.

Dr. von Mach reminded Secretary of the Navy Daniels that this plan had been adopted by the United States to send a cargo of unleavened bread to the starving population of Palestine.

The United States some time ago sounded out the British and French governments as to whether they would permit the safe passage of milk cargoes to Germany. The British government has not replied. The French government rejected the request for military reasons.

Grief Over Execution of Oyp the Blood Kills Sire

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Grief over the execution in the death house at Sing Sing two years ago of his son, "Oyp the Blood" Harry Horowitz, at last has caused the death of Joseph Horowitz, a little old East Side tailor.

"Now I go to my boy, Harry," were the old man's last words.

It was recalled today by close friends how the old tailor threw himself across the newly made grave of his gunman-son in the sunshine of a spring afternoon two years ago crying: "Harry! My son! My heart is bursting!"

Mardi Gras—New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, March 2-7. Low round trip fares. Through sleeping car, Southern Railway, 10.15-11.15 G. Sta. N. W. Adv.

CONVICT SAVED BY VOICE FROM GRAVE

Sentence of William H. Armstrong Commuted Because of Dead Father's Words.

Under circumstances unparalleled in the records of the Department of Justice, President Wilson has commuted the penitentiary sentence of William H. Armstrong, Jr., of Philadelphia, convicted with five other financiers in April, 1913, of using the mails to defraud.

Armstrong was saved by a voice from the grave. His father, William H. Armstrong, sr., died broken-hearted after exhausting every financial and political influence to gain clemency for his son.

It was through a forgotten speech he had made at the Pennsylvania constitutional convention in 1872 that the rules of the Department of Justice were waived and the way cleared for executive clemency.

Armstrong's attorney, in pleading for a reduction of the two years' sentence imposed on him, unconsciously quoted from his father's speech.

The Department of Justice has a rule that no applications for clemency are to be received until after the convicted man has been sentenced to prison. Never had this rule been abrogated. In a final desperate effort to break through this rule, Attorney John Schwarzkopf, of Philadelphia, Armstrong's counsel, cited a gem of legal literature expressing his point of view.

He quoted from a musty law book, not known to the author. The brief made a deep impression upon the Attorney General, and it went to the President. Not until later did the attorney discover that the passage quoted was from a speech delivered by Armstrong's father.

Today Armstrong is preparing to serve six months, the time to which his sentence has been commuted.

His conviction took place in April, 1913, with five other financiers, convicted of selling \$5,000,000 worth of stock in a defunct lumber tract. For a long time Armstrong was ill.

During a part of that time his father made every effort to save his son from the penitentiary. His father died while the fight was on.

Twice the Supreme Court denied review of the conviction and twice the President declined to intervene.

German Attack Near Blangy Is Repulsed

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Repulse of a weak German attack north of Blangy is reported by the war office this afternoon. No other important operations occurred on the French front last night.

Dies at Age of 100.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Nathan English, who celebrated his 100th birthday last September, died here today from a cold caught when he shovelled snow off the sidewalk of his home last Tuesday. He never was ill before.

English was the father of one son and two daughters, all dead. The youngest lived to be seventy-five.

T. R. OFFERED TO GIVE ROOT SUPPORT, G. O. P. LEADER SAYS

Understood to Be Ready to Back McCall, Burton, or Knox. Expects No Party Splits.

MAY BE 1920 CANDIDATE

George W. Perkins Disappointed in Stand Taken by Delegates at State Convention.

By P. T. RELLIHAN.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Did Colonel Roosevelt send Robert T. Lincoln and Gen. Leonard Wood to Elihu Root to say the Root, if nominated for President, would have his support? A Republican leader who is high in the councils of the Old Guard is authority for the statement that Colonel Roosevelt gave such an explicit promise.

"Just as he sent similar messages," the leader in question said, "to McCall of Massachusetts, Burton of Ohio, and Knox of Pennsylvania."

"You are satisfied Roosevelt sent such an assurance to Root?" was asked.

"I know he did," he said.

"And you believe if Root is nominated in Chicago Roosevelt will support him?"

"I haven't the least doubt of it; he couldn't afford to do otherwise. Roosevelt, in my judgment, would come out now for Root or for any one of the men I have named if he could guess which of them would be nominated—he would come out for him and make him his candidate; but he doesn't know; nobody knows."

Perkins Censures Root Men.

If the Old Guard leader was right, then George W. Perkins, it would seem, is not in as close touch with the colonel, his views do not so accurately reflect the Roosevelt attitude, as once was the case. Perkins evidently does not believe T. R. would take the stump for Root as an acceptable union candidate for President. In a statement which he made yesterday, although he did not refer directly to Root, Perkins censured the men who are behind the Root boom.

"The attitude assumed by the Republican State convention this week," said Perkins, "is very disappointing, and makes the outlook for Roosevelt very gloomy. The men who are behind the Root boom are not in as close touch with the colonel, his views do not so accurately reflect the Roosevelt attitude, as once was the case. Perkins evidently does not believe T. R. would take the stump for Root as an acceptable union candidate for President. In a statement which he made yesterday, although he did not refer directly to Root, Perkins censured the men who are behind the Root boom."

(Continued on Second Page.)

Real Eagle Sent To the President

Colorado Sends It As Indorsement of Policy of Preparedness.

The White House may be the fountain-head of American patriotism, but it is no place for a real live American eagle.

President Wilson discovered this today, and for that reason the eagle is now preening its feathers in the folds of the National Zoological Park.

Last night a mammoth crate, containing a live bald-headed eagle from Colorado, reached the White House carrying with him the sense of the State of Colorado in behalf of preparedness.

The President appreciated the gift very highly. Nor did he express surprise at the gesture of Mr. Eagle, as remarked in Presidential language that it was "some bird."

But when it came to housing the bird in the White House staff began. But when the matter was presented in desperation to the President he decided that the eagle would be better off at the Zoo.

The eagle was sent to the President by Judge George F. Patrick, of Orway, Colo., who discovered it as the most magnificent eagle ever captured in that State, and added:

"It represents the indorsement of the people of Colorado for preparedness. You, without any army or navy, and with only your fountain pen to defend the policy of this great nation, have nevertheless been guided by Providence in the handling of the nation's affairs."

Bishop Shanahan Dead.

LANCASTER, Pa., Feb. 19.—The Rt. Rev. John Walter Shanahan, third bishop of the Harrisburg diocese of the Catholic Church, died early today at St. Joseph's Hospital. Death was caused by hemorrhages resulting from an operation performed several years ago.

COTTON-KING SULLY AWARDED \$30,000 IN HAMMOND SUIT

After Being Out Two Days Jury Returns Verdict Against Mining Magnate.

LOSERS HAVEN'T QUIT FIGHT

No Decision Yet as to Whether New Trial Will Be Asked or Appeal Taken.

A verdict of \$30,000 was awarded the plaintiff today in the second trial of the now famous Sully-Hammond \$1,500,000 damage suit.

The jury, which was out from 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, gave its verdict in favor of the former "Cotton King," shortly before 11 o'clock. George F. Hoover, of counsel for the defendant, asked that the jury be polled after the verdict had been announced. A poll showed that the twelve men were unanimous.

"We have not quit fighting," said Mr. Hoover, immediately after the announcement of the verdict. Whether a new trial will be asked or an appeal taken, Hoover refused to say.

The verdict marks the end of the second trial of the case.

J. Sully, former cotton king, instituted the suit against John Hays Hammond, millionaire mining magnate and Republican leader, alleging that the defendant by abrogating certain contracts with him injured his reputation as a cotton expert.

The first hearing of the case, which consumed approximately six weeks, ended in a mistrial. Gossip about the court house at the time had it that eleven of the jury held out to award the plaintiff a verdict of \$300,000.

The second trial has taken up about six weeks. The defense, following refusal of Justice Gould to direct a verdict in its favor, announced about a week ago that it would rest on the evidence adduced by the plaintiff. Attorneys for the defendant averred at the time that, in their opinion, no case was made out by the plaintiff.

Attorneys Gittings and Chamberlain represented Mr. Sully. Attorneys McKenney and Plannery and George F. Hoover appeared for Mr. Hammond.

Russ Won't Push On, Says Berlin

Military Critics Assert Neither Constantinople Nor Mesopotamia Are in Danger.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Feb. 19.—The Russians will make no serious attempt to reach either Constantinople or Mesopotamia from Erzerum, Berlin military critics declare.

Not taking into account the tremendous obstacles in the way of a 700-mile march on the Turkish capital, the grand duke would need more than 100,000 men and immense military supplies for such an enterprise, it is declared.

It is considered certain that the czar can not push the men nor the munitions for such an advance.

The Siberian troops, employed in the fighting under severe temperatures in the snow-capped Armenian mountains, find themselves ill-fitted for a Mesopotamia campaign, it is stated.

Even if the Russian army, accustomed to fighting in hot climates, have suffered terribly in battles in the sandy Turkestan region under temperatures ranging above 110 degrees.

DISTRICT EMPLOYE
TO GET LIFE PENSION

As a reward for long and faithful service, Barney, a servant of the District government, is to be pensioned.

Barney is a horse for ten years, during hours, he has stood between the shafts of Purchasing Officer M. C. Hargrove's official buggy.

Recently it was noted that his period of usefulness was over. He was commended and ordered sold at auction. Mr. Hargrove pictured Barney as a deserving of a better fate.

Today Mr. Hargrove attended the auction. Barney was sold to the highest bidder for \$15. Mr. Hargrove was the purchaser.

Barney, he says, is to be sent to a farm in Virginia to spend the rest of his days in comfort.

Aid-Park Employees' Bill

All of the citizens' associations of the District are to be asked to support a bill now in the hands of Senator Martin of Virginia, providing for increased pay for the park employees of Washington. A labor committee, representing the park employees, is to present the matter to the various associations.

St. Louis Man Who May Succeed Marye



DAVID R. FRANCIS.

FRANCIS IS OFFERED EMBASSY IN RUSSIA

Missourian Expected to Accept Diplomatic Appointment Because of Short Tenure.

David R. Francis, of St. Louis, has been offered the post of United States Ambassador to Russia. It is understood in official circles at San Francisco today.

Francis was offered the post as a substitute for the late Ambassador, William Brewster, who died several years ago, and declined the offer because it would take him too far from home.

The fact that acceptance of the President's offer would compel him to be in Petrograd only a year leads his friends here to think he will accept the post.

Storm Threatens Holland's Dikes

Amsterdam Expects Flood—Hamburg Reported Partly Damaged by Waters.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 19.—The island of Marken, in the Zuider Zee, fifteen miles north of Amsterdam, has been completely inundated by the severe storm that is sweeping the North Sea.

Huge waves are rolling over Marken. Many persons have taken refuge in the lighthouses and fear is felt for their safety.

Fresh breaks in the Zuider Zee dikes are occurring almost hourly. No loss of life has been reported. Several towns are completely inundated. The flood is approaching the northern suburbs of Amsterdam.

Communication with Germany is greatly delayed, the storm having crippled telegraph lines. Reports are current that the German port of Hamburg has been seriously damaged, wharves and streets being under water.

WANTS NEW LINE TO RELIEVE CONGESTION

F. P. Smith Complains of Rush on Fourteenth Street Cars.

Complaint of crowded conditions during the morning and after 4:30 p. m. on the Fourteenth street line of the Capital Traction Company is made in a letter received by the Public Utilities Commission today from F. P. Smith, 144 Buchanan street.

Mr. Smith suggests that as a means of relieving congestion permission be granted another company to build a line in Thirteenth street, Fifteenth street, or Seventeenth street.

Work on the survey of traffic conditions will be completed in about two weeks, and a report, together with recommendations for improvements, submitted to the commission. The survey is being made under the direction of J. Rappene, engineer of the Public Utilities Commission.

Gen. Scott Orders Action On Flooded Mississippi

Reports from the Mississippi flood district to the War Department today caused Acting Secretary of War Hugh L. Scott, to order Capt. William E. Hunt, quartermaster at St. Louis, to take charge of the work of distributing food and supplies.

The district forty-five miles south of Pittsburgh, near Buckridge, reports said, is most seriously affected.

Finally the entire army engineer corps, the Mississippi section, with 1,000 men, has been ordered.

To Augusta, Atlantic

ave 3:30 p. m. Through

Daily, Compartment

bus Sat. Dining Car

1400 N. Y. ave. n.w.

GERMANY WILL NOT CURTAIL U-BOAT RIGHTS

U. S. Attitude on Armed Liners Astonishes Nation and Arouses Indignation.

CONFIRMATION IS AWAITED

Last Word on Lusitania Spoken, Berlin Officials Intimate.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 19.—Reports that the United States will not submit to Germany's new policy of torpedoing all armed merchantmen, have aroused indignation in Germany, according to advices received here today.

The Cologne Gazette, which has close relations with the German government, declares Germany will not curtail the rights of her submarines on account of reckless neutrals who insist on travelling on belligerent ships.

The other newspapers express the greatest astonishment at the news from Washington, but for the most part await confirmation from Ambassador Bernstorff before expressing decided opinions.

In earlier dispatches from Washington they had been led to believe that the American Government, having first proposed the disarmament of belligerent merchant ships, would agree fully to the Austro-German proposals.

ATTITUDE OF PRESS.

The Berlin newspapers commented favorably on reports that the United States would bar armed vessels from her ports and would refuse to grant passports to German sailing on such vessels, and declared that cooperation in this program by the United States would end the submarine controversy.

In their earlier editorial discussions the Berlin papers declared Germany would not consent to withdraw her orders to torpedo armed merchantmen merely because England gave assurances to the United States that the guns would be used only for defensive purposes.

They declared that such assurances already had been given informally by England, but that British commanders had refused to allow German submarines to attack such vessels. Several papers suggested that Germany might accept this proposal if the United States assumed responsibility for any breach of faith by England by declaring war on the allies.

Last Word Spoken on Lusitania, Berlin Says

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—Germany has said her last word on the Lusitania matter, and will not prepare another note dealing with that question. It is strongly indicated by officials today.

Officials are not commenting freely upon the latest reports from Washington that Secretary of State Lansing will not recognize Germany's rights to torpedo armed merchantmen. But the official attitude, as nearly as it can be stated, is this:

Germany does not believe that the United States will interrogate her too closely upon the manner in which the new policy will be enforced.

Should the foreign office, for instance, inform Washington just how German submarine commanders will interpret the term "armed merchantmen" in executing these orders, officials believe that it would be imparting important news secrets to Germany, which this is a purely military matter concerning only herself and her allies.

Exactly what attitude the foreign office will take in view of the latest reports from Washington is not definitely known. It is only stated that Ambassador Bernstorff already has been fully instructed relative to the Lusitania settlement.

These instructions permit him to make the changes suggested in his recent conferences with Secretary Lansing.

Officials consider that the Lusitania case itself was really closed at these conferences.

Neutral Diplomats See Breach Growing Nearer

Diplomatic representatives of neutral governments in Washington believe that the United States is facing the most serious danger of a break in friendly relations with Germany and Austria over the submarine question.

These neutral diplomats learned just how seriously the United States regards the situation through their efforts to secure joint action to end British interference with mail and trade.

The State Department has rejected repeated pleas to take joint action with neutrals, the last refusal being made to the Swedish minister a few days ago.

Secretary of State Lansing explained his refusal by saying that the United States would not discuss this situation while the submarine negotiations were pending.